

DIMENSIONAL & SURFACE ROUGHNESS ANALYSIS OF FUSED DEPOSITION MODELLING PARTS MADE OF DIFFERENT POLYMERS

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Abstract: Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies have high potential in terms of productivity and competitiveness for companies, their diffusion is still relatively limited among manufactures and end users. AM technology have different categories such as Material Extrusion, VAT Photopolymerisation, Powder Bed Fusion, Material Jetting, Binder Jetting, Sheet Lamination, Directed Energy Deposition. Fused deposition modeling (FDM) under Material Extrusion category is one of the most common and widely used additive manufacturing technology. FDM process is the most versatile additive manufacturing process due to low cost range, flexibility, broad range in material, low time consumption and accessibility. A study of dimensional accuracy, surface roughness & wettability are basically depending on the process parameter such as layer thickness, build orientation, print speed and post processing methods. In this research work, dimensional accuracy, surface roughness & wettability of 3D printed ABS; PLA & PP parts have been investigated at different raster angle.

IndexTerms – Additive manufacturing, fused deposition modelling, surface roughness, dimensional accuracy, wettability.

I. INTRODUCTION

Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies have high potential in terms of productivity and competitiveness for companies, their diffusion is still relatively limited among manufacturers and end users. The high cost of this equipment could be a key reason, but there is a general agreement that there is a lack of deep knowledge of these technologies as well as skills for implementing them in companies. [1] Additive manufacturing is also known as rapid prototyping which is used in a variety of industries to describe a process for rapidly creating a system or part representation before final release or commercialization. [2] According to many case studies[3-5], among all additive manufacturing processes, Fused deposition modelling process which is extrusion based additive manufacturing is widely used in industries because of several reason such as lower cost, broad range in material, less time consuming and easy accessibility. As mentioned about material, many materials have been used in process from which ABS, PLA and PP are mostly used. These materials are being used in several areas such as architecture, automobile, medical industries. However many problems have been raised in FDM process like surface and dimensional accuracy [8-10].

II. PROBLEM FORMULATIONS

In the FDM process, many errors have been found from different studies which are due to curing and control errors. These errors are affecting accuracy of object in terms of dimensional and surface accuracy which are most important for any object. To improve accuracy of 3D printed part either control processing parameter or introduce some post processes according to material. Layer separation error, surface warping and oozing[11], these error are happened during process which can be controlled process parameter[12-13] and improvement of dimensional and surface accuracy can be managed by post processes such as abrasive operation, laser treatment and solubility test. In this research paper, three different materials have been considered with process parameter and solubility test has been considered for improvement of accuracy.

III. MATERIAL

As mentioned early, there is broad range of materials for FDM process based machines. Among all materials, ABS, PLA and PP materials have been chosen for research work. The reason behind choosing these material is, easily available in market, can be printed complex parts with these materials with good enough strength.

PLA is a biodegradable, compostable, renewable, thermoplastic material. This polyester is made from lactic acid and as it has biodegradable property which makes it ecofriendly polymer material.[14] ABS is common thermoplastic polymer typically used for injection molding application. This engineering plastic is popular due to its low production cost and the ease with which the machined by plastic manufacturers. ABS is a non-biodegradable material so that atmosphere effect will not affect the material property.[15] Polypropylene is thermoplastic polymer made from combination of propylene monomers. It is used in various applications like consumer product packaging product, automobile industry though it's difficult to manufacture through additive process compare to other material.[16]

IV. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

In this research work, PLA, ABS and PP filament having diameter of 2.85 ± 0.10 mm from a commercial filament manufacturer are being used. A commercially available 3D printer was used in this work. A sample object was designed such a way that different types if surface were included like flat surface as surface 1, free form surface as surface 2, semicircular surface as surface 3 and inclined surfaces as surface 4 & 5 as shown in figure 1.

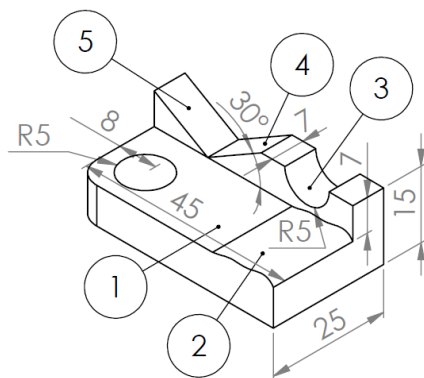


Figure 1. Designed part to be printed

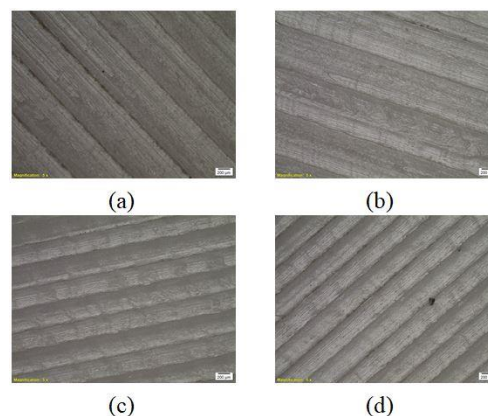


Figure 2. Microscopic image of the fiber direction for different raster angle (a) 0°, (b) 30°, (c) 60°, (d) 90°

These sample objects are printed in FDM based 3D printer from different material like ABS, PLA and PP at different build orientation about z axis varying from 0° to 90° in step of 30°. Therefore, four types of the same object have been printed with raster angle as 0°, 30°, 60° & 90°. These all objects from different material have been printed with process parameter as mentioned in table 1. Due to change in raster angles, raster pattern is different for different build orientation as shown in figure 2.

Table. 1 Printing Process input parameter

| Parameter | Value |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Material infill density | 100% |
| Build plate temperature | 60 °C |
| Nozzle temperature | 210 °C |
| Layer thickness | 0.1mm |
| Print speed | 50 mm/s |

As in additive manufacturing process, post process is mandatory as without post process, accuracy cannot be improved for any material. There are many post processes for different polymer material such as laser treatment and abrasive operation. As objects are in small size, laser treatment will not affected much in dimensional and surface accuracy. For abrasive operation, it is difficult to apply same pressure manually through whole surfaces for accuracy improvement. Overhere during process, water soluble support structure has been used. After completion of object, support material can be removed easily either by water solubility or by manually which ensure to prevent any surface breakage. Using same logic these materials are soluble in particular chemical which help to improve surface texture without interfering dimensional accuracy much. ABS, PLA and PP material is soluble in acetone, tetrahydrofuran and tetralin chemical respectively. Objects from different materials are not fully merged into these chemical, instead of that, objects were polished by these chemicals with help of cotton manually. Due to chemical effect with polymer, surface texture was improved as mentioned in tables. In every result table, left side (without prime) data for any surface or angle were denoted measurement before chemical treatment while right side (with prime) were denoted measurement after chemical treatment.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Surface roughness often shortened to roughness, is a component of surface texture. It is quantified by the deviations in the direction of the normal vector of a real surface from its ideal form. If deviations are large, the surface is rough; if they are small, the surface is smooth. In this research work, surface roughness is measured by SURFTEST SJ-210 SERIES from Mitutoyo.

Table. 2 Ra parameter for different surface before and after chemical treatment

| Material | Raster angle | Surfaces | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Ra in µm | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 1' | 2 | 2' | 3 | 3' | 4 | 4' | 5 | 5' |
| ABS | 0 | 3.598 | 2.367 | 0.248 | 0.134 | 5.982 | 3.342 | 4.334 | 2.435 | 3.153 | 1.345 |
| | 30 | 0.975 | 0.345 | 0.370 | 0.135 | 3.121 | 2.341 | 2.321 | 1.346 | 2.513 | 1.456 |
| | 60 | 1.590 | 0.453 | 0.454 | 0.254 | 3.604 | 2.124 | 2.532 | 1.356 | 3.432 | 1.634 |
| | 90 | 2.292 | 1.234 | 0.692 | 0.238 | 4.320 | 2.531 | 3.231 | 1.754 | 2.453 | 1.436 |
| PLA | 0 | 1.959 | 1.123 | 0.272 | 0.146 | 3.016 | 1.564 | 1.982 | 0.346 | 1.421 | 0.346 |
| | 30 | 1.127 | 0.345 | 0.689 | 0.124 | 2.731 | 1.574 | 2.017 | 1.034 | 2.417 | 1.245 |
| | 60 | 1.570 | 0.235 | 0.357 | 0.214 | 3.068 | 1.785 | 2.125 | 1.345 | 2.145 | 0.452 |
| | 90 | 2.008 | 1.324 | 0.547 | 0.325 | 4.503 | 2.574 | 2.964 | 1.356 | 1.964 | 0.252 |
| PP | 0 | 6.582 | 4.234 | 2.597 | 1.354 | 14.836 | 10.235 | 5.213 | 2.453 | 3.642 | 1.342 |
| | 30 | 7.725 | 3.465 | 21.287 | 16.523 | 11.777 | 6.345 | 5.980 | 2.325 | 3.764 | 1.325 |
| | 60 | 4.932 | 2.352 | 22.483 | 15.421 | 11.588 | 7.425 | 4.212 | 2.145 | 4.252 | 2.141 |
| | 90 | 1.437 | 0.235 | 5.986 | 2.455 | 13.911 | 8.342 | 3.134 | 1.352 | 3.142 | 1.745 |

Table. 3 Rz parameter for different surface before and after chemical treatment

| Material | Raster angle | Surfaces | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Rz in μm | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 1' | 2 | 2' | 3 | 3' | 4 | 4' | 5 | 5' |
| ABS | 0 | 18.679 | 9.435 | 1.676 | 0.233 | 32.566 | 13.534 | 5.234 | 2.754 | 4.521 | 2.463 |
| | 30 | 6.481 | 2.235 | 2.221 | 1.422 | 19.248 | 9.234 | 4.234 | 2.143 | 4.235 | 2.456 |
| | 60 | 11.949 | 5.235 | 3.073 | 1.934 | 19.006 | 10.342 | 5.124 | 2.453 | 5.235 | 2.453 |
| | 90 | 12.385 | 5.763 | 3.990 | 1.892 | 27.434 | 15.352 | 2.534 | 1.352 | 3.452 | 1.894 |
| PLA | 0 | 10.055 | 4.463 | 1.830 | 0.643 | 15.707 | 8.234 | 4.234 | 2.143 | 4.253 | 1.755 |
| | 30 | 7.090 | 3.346 | 3.132 | 2.124 | 14.307 | 5.324 | 3.513 | 1.634 | 2.653 | 1.954 |
| | 60 | 8.543 | 3.463 | 2.004 | 1.463 | 16.663 | 8.213 | 4.313 | 2.124 | 6.235 | 2.464 |
| | 90 | 9.392 | 4.235 | 3.047 | 1.934 | 26.467 | 16.235 | 5.234 | 2.352 | 2.514 | 1.463 |
| PP | 0 | 65.245 | 20.346 | 18.353 | 5.135 | 138.16 | 40.235 | 2.235 | 0.976 | 5.325 | 2.463 |
| | 30 | 52.760 | 32.235 | 151.96 | 42.522 | 89.589 | 35.234 | 5.235 | 2.351 | 2.523 | 1.363 |
| | 60 | 47.522 | 23.345 | 157.55 | 40.341 | 95.133 | 46.235 | 2.523 | 1.235 | 3.515 | 1.683 |
| | 90 | 13.045 | 5.452 | 61.528 | 20.352 | 84.059 | 34.234 | 5.235 | 2.345 | 3.513 | 1.456 |

(b)

Dimensional accuracy is important parameter for any object. In this research work, many tolerances parameters have been considered such as parallelism, roundness, cylindricity, angularity. These parameters have been measured in co-ordinate measuring machine (CMM) from Carl Zeiss make. As shown in table 4, 5 & 6, for parallelism four out plane have been considered while perpendicularity, all plane with perpendicular plane have been considered and for cylindricity, three cylinder are considered and last for angularity, both inclined planes are considered for measurement.

Table 4. Dimensional measurement for ABS material before and after chemical treatment

| Geometric tolerance in mm | Raster angle in degree | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 0 | 0' | 30 | 30' | 60 | 60' | 90 | 90' |
| Parallelism 1 | 0.0449 | 0.0395 | 0.4586 | 0.3532 | 0.0985 | 0.0873 | 0.1099 | 0.0934 |
| Parallelism 2 | 0.1709 | 0.1674 | 0.3272 | 0.2932 | 0.3877 | 0.3134 | 0.1708 | 0.1583 |
| Perpendicularity 1 | 0.1029 | 0.0923 | 0.4469 | 0.4292 | 0.1298 | 0.1103 | 0.0558 | 0.0478 |
| Perpendicularity 2 | 0.1097 | 0.0894 | 0.3229 | 0.3042 | 0.5133 | 0.4902 | 0.2669 | 0.1935 |
| Perpendicularity 3 | 0.1166 | 0.1093 | 0.0628 | 0.0534 | 0.0992 | 0.0873 | 0.0579 | 0.0463 |
| Perpendicularity 4 | 0.2118 | 0.2012 | 0.1372 | 0.1042 | 0.1103 | 0.1034 | 0.2249 | 0.2143 |
| Cylindricity 1 | 0.0841 | 0.0783 | 0.0991 | 0.0842 | 0.0472 | 0.0341 | 0.1481 | 0.1323 |
| Cylindricity 2 | 0.0577 | 0.0464 | 0.0355 | 0.0254 | 0.0295 | 0.0234 | 0.0289 | 0.0214 |
| Cylindricity 3 | 0.1614 | 0.1574 | 0.0561 | 0.0475 | 0.0852 | 0.0784 | 0.0091 | 0.0083 |
| Angularity 1 | 0.0079 | 0.0069 | 0.0284 | 0.0214 | 0.0157 | 0.0134 | 0.0133 | 0.0103 |
| Angularity 2 | 0.0494 | 0.0373 | 0.0817 | 0.0784 | 0.0106 | 0.0089 | 0.0515 | 0.0432 |

Table 5. Dimensional measurement for PLA material before and after chemical treatment

| Geometric tolerance in mm | Raster angle in degree | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 0 | 0' | 30 | 30' | 60 | 60' | 90 | 90' |
| Parallelism 1 | 0.3349 | 0.2901 | 0.4218 | 0.3654 | 0.4363 | 0.3534 | 0.5281 | 0.5034 |
| Parallelism 2 | 0.7640 | 0.6834 | 0.6030 | 0.5034 | 0.7398 | 0.6453 | 0.7161 | 0.6745 |
| Perpendicularity 1 | 0.2522 | 0.2135 | 0.7846 | 0.6843 | 0.6056 | 0.5342 | 0.6847 | 0.6234 |
| Perpendicularity 2 | 0.9983 | 0.8945 | 0.6957 | 0.6323 | 0.7654 | 0.6342 | 1.0331 | 0.0945 |
| Perpendicularity 3 | 0.4552 | 0.4132 | 0.3264 | 0.3034 | 0.3681 | 0.3351 | 0.3560 | 0.3423 |
| Perpendicularity 4 | 1.0931 | 0.9423 | 0.7931 | 0.7123 | 1.0764 | 0.0754 | 0.8628 | 0.7545 |
| Cylindricity 1 | 0.1095 | 0.9342 | 0.0869 | 0.0783 | 0.0775 | 0.0345 | 0.1083 | 0.0942 |
| Cylindricity 2 | 0.0559 | 0.0478 | 0.0867 | 0.0789 | 0.0424 | 0.0234 | 0.0346 | 0.0242 |
| Cylindricity 3 | 0.3670 | 0.2903 | 0.0486 | 0.0342 | 0.0075 | 0.0065 | 0.0176 | 0.0124 |
| Angularity 1 | 0.0262 | 0.0164 | 0.0255 | 0.0134 | 0.0019 | 0.0013 | 0.0154 | 0.0134 |
| Angularity 2 | 0.0629 | 0.0584 | 0.0773 | 0.0678 | 0.0684 | 0.0453 | 0.0877 | 0.0243 |

Table 6. Dimensional measurement for PP material before and after chemical treatment

| Geometric tolerance in mm | Raster angle in degree | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 0 | 0' | 30 | 30' | 60 | 60' | 90 | 90' |
| Parallelism 1 | 0.3302 | 0.2342 | 0.3567 | 0.2343 | 0.6494 | 0.4234 | 0.5158 | 0.4234 |
| Parallelism 2 | 0.2251 | 0.1422 | 0.2256 | 0.1432 | 0.3172 | 0.2545 | 0.5687 | 0.2343 |
| Perpendicularity 1 | 0.7052 | 0.5453 | 0.6175 | 0.5342 | 1.1278 | 0.9342 | 1.0375 | 0.5452 |
| Perpendicularity 2 | 0.0555 | 0.0345 | 0.2463 | 0.1533 | 0.8961 | 0.4523 | 0.0395 | 0.0245 |
| Perpendicularity 3 | 0.1201 | 0.0934 | 0.1354 | 0.1034 | 0.2162 | 0.1342 | 0.1183 | 0.0934 |
| Perpendicularity 4 | 0.2172 | 0.1543 | 0.3461 | 0.2543 | 0.6290 | 0.4234 | 1.0387 | 0.5232 |
| Cylindricity 1 | 0.5803 | 0.4234 | 0.4795 | 0.2453 | 0.2875 | 0.1452 | 0.3401 | 0.2523 |
| Cylindricity 2 | 0.0869 | 0.0634 | 0.0561 | 0.0245 | 0.0914 | 0.0832 | 0.0943 | 0.0634 |
| Cylindricity 3 | 0.0913 | 0.0634 | 0.0811 | 0.0634 | 0.0601 | 0.0532 | 0.0838 | 0.0532 |
| Angularity 1 | 0.0136 | 0.0123 | 0.5339 | 0.4524 | 0.2425 | 0.1345 | 0.2130 | 0.1435 |
| Angularity 2 | 0.1875 | 0.1264 | 0.4709 | 0.3423 | 0.0805 | 0.0423 | 0.0864 | 0.0634 |

(e)

Last property for research is wettability. It is the tendency of one fluid to spread on, or adhere to, a solid surface in the presence of other immiscible fluids. Wettability refers to the interaction between fluid and solid phases. In a reservoir rock the liquid phase can be water or oil or gas, and the solid phase is the rock mineral assemblage. Here wettability for the surfaces was measured using kyowa contact angle. Water droplets were dropped from the attached syringe and dynamic response was measured on software provided by the machine manufacturer on a workstation. In the experiment distilled water has been used. Each reading was taken at three times and their arithmetical average was taken as the contact angle indicator. Water droplets were dropped at the center point of each surface for each raster orientation.

Table 7. Contact angle in degree for ABS material before and after chemical treatment

| Raster angle | Surfaces | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 1' | 2 | 2' | 3 | 3' | 4 | 4' | 5 | 5' |
| 0° | 63.6° | 48.3° | 57.2° | 32.8° | 83.6° | 54.8° | 89.9° | 59.5° | 92.9° | 56.3° |
| 30° | 62.3° | 53.2° | 60.7° | 49.3° | 75.1° | 43.5° | 99.3° | 68.4° | 94.8° | 60.4° |
| 60° | 58.0 | 39.3° | 55.3° | 32.5° | 67.4° | 39.6° | 105.4° | 60.4° | 84.2° | 49.3° |
| 90° | 48.2° | 29.4° | 46.8° | 32.5° | 38.7° | 29.8° | 114.9° | 74.3° | 75.3° | 40.3° |

Table 8. Contact angle in degree for PLA material before and after chemical treatment

| Raster angle | Surfaces | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 1' | 2 | 2' | 3 | 3' | 4 | 4' | 5 | 5' |
| 0° | 43.4° | 23.5° | 54.7° | 34.2° | 39.5° | 21.4° | 75.0° | 38.4° | 77.5° | 34.2° |
| 30° | 41.6° | 29.4° | 49.1° | 28.4° | 13.4° | 9.3° | 77.6° | 41.4° | 74.5° | 39.3° |
| 60° | 55.0° | 32.2° | 63.4° | 32.7° | 74.4° | 36.3° | 95.6° | 54.2° | 91.3° | 52.5° |
| 90° | 65.0° | 37.4° | 74.5° | 41.5° | 77.5° | 41.5° | 83.1° | 39.2 | 94.0° | 53.7° |

Table 9. Contact angle in degree for PP material before and after chemical treatment

| Raster angle | Surfaces | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 1' | 2 | 2' | 3 | 3' | 4 | 4' | 5 | 5' |
| 0° | 58.3° | 26.6° | 67.3° | 32.5° | 43.4° | 17.4° | 64.4° | 28.4° | 68.3° | 29.4° |
| 30° | 42.6° | 34.5° | 62.5° | 29.5° | 63.5° | 35.3° | 78.4° | 32.5° | 52.4° | 31.3° |
| 60° | 47.6° | 32.7° | 43.5° | 21.4° | 64.5° | 39.3° | 54.6° | 29.4° | 64.5° | 28.5° |
| 90° | 53.6° | 25.3° | 53.6° | 27.3° | 78.4° | 47.4° | 58.4° | 27.5° | 73.5° | 35.4° |

(h)

VI. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it can be concluded that surface roughness and wettability of object can be improved with help of chemicals for different polymer material without affecting much into dimensional accuracy. Another conclusion from the data is, for any application, particular surface roughness and wettability is needed, process parameters with material can be chosen easily accordingly.

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